

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 01480 121427Z

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1480

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINTS RO

SUBJ: CONFERENCE OF ECONOMIC CADRES

REF: BUCHAREST 1450 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: INITIAL PRESS REPORTS ON INTERNAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE OF APRIL 11 WHICH LED TO POST-PONEMENT OF FIRST US-ROMANIAN JOINT COMMISSION SESSION SHOW SESSION TO BE LARGELY HORTATORY AND CONFINED TO MINISTRIES AND OTHER BUCHAREST-BASED ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS. MEETING SHEDS FURTHER LIGHT ON PERSONAL DOMINATION OF CEAUSESCU OVER COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN WAKE OF MAURER'S RETIREMENT, A DOMINATION THAT WE ARE TOLD IS RESULTING IN PHYSICAL REMOVAL OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO PARTY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING WHERE CEAUSESCU WORKS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 01480 121427Z

END SUMMARY.

2. ROMANIAN PRESS OF APRIL 12 CARRIES FIRST REPORT OF APRIL 11 ECONOMIC CONFERENCE WHICH RESULTED IN POSTPONEMENT BY ONE DAY OF FIRST US-ROMANIAN JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION PLENARY (REFTEL). THIS INITIAL PRESS REPORT BRIEFLY OUTLINES STRUCTURE AND PURPOSES OF MEETING AND SUMMARIZES SPEECHES OTHER THAN CEAUSESCU'S. LATTER'S SPEECH AS WELL AS CONFERENCE RESOLUTION WILL APPARENTLY BE PUBLISHED LATER.

3. MEETING WAS CONFINED TO GOVERNMENT AND PARTY FUNCTIONARIES FROM MINISTRIES AND OTHER CENTRAL ECONOMIC BODIES WITH REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES EXCLUDED EXCEPT FOR BUCHAREST CITY. ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CANDIDATE MEMBERS WERE PRESENT EXCEPT FOR ALL THOSE WITH PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES SUCH AS TROFIN AND DRAGAN AS WELL AS TWO WITH CENTRAL RESPONSIBILITIES, PAUL NICULESCU-MIZIL AND DUMITRU POPESCU. ABSENCE OF LATTER TWO IS UNEXPLAINED; THEY MAY BE OUT OF TOWN ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT TO THAT EFFECT. OF THOSE PRESENT, PRESS LISTS CEAUSESCU AND BODNARAS FIRST FOLLOWED BY OTHER FULL MEMBERS OF EXCO IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER, THEN CANDIDATE MEMBERS PLUS NEW FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OPREA AS NON-MEMBER WHO NOW HAS RECOGNIZED LEADERSHIP STATUS. THIS LISTING DIFFERS FROM INITIAL TENDENCY AFTER MARCH PLENUM TO LIST MANEA MANESCU AFTER BODNARAS, FOLLOWED THEN BY ALPHABETICAL SEQUENCY.

4. SUMMARIZED SPEECHES BY LESSER FRY POINT, AS EXPECTED, TO HORTATORY SESSION WITH ADDITIONAL THEMES OF EMPHASIZING UTTER SUBORDINATION OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO PRESIDENCY AND PERHAPS GREATER THAN USUAL ATTENTION TO CRITICISM AND SELF-CRITICISM ON ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE BY SPEAKERS.

5. FOR FIRST TIME, BUCHAREST MAYOR CIOARA DID NOT MENTION FORMER FOUR AND ONE-HALF YEAR GOAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUCAR 01480 121427Z

(HE HAD CONTINUED TO TOUT THIS SLOGAN FOR BUCHAREST ALONE AS RECENTLY AS JANUARY 1974, LONG AFTER IT HAD BEEN DROPPED FOR COUNTRY AS A WHOLE BY EVERYONE ELSE INCLUDING ITS ORIGINAL ADVOCATE, CEAUSESCU).:8OARA DOD RESORT TO UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE CRITICISM OF VARIOUS MINISTERIES, PERHAPS IMPLYING THAT APPARENT LOWERING OF BUCHAREST'S SIGHTS WAS DUE PRIMARILY TO LAPSES OF OTHERS.

6. MANEA MANESCU'S SPEECH IS NOTEWORTHY FOR STATEMENTS IMPLYING COMPLETE SUBORDINATION OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO PRESIDENCY AND TO RESTRICTION OF ROLE OF COUNCIL TO INSTRUMENT FOR SEEING THAT PRESIDENTIAL IDEAS ARE PROPERLY CARRIED OUT. THIS SUBORDINATION OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO CEAUSESCU AS ALL-POWERFUL PARTY-STATE LEADER IS GRAPHICALLY CONFIRMED IN STATEMENT BY FOREIGN TRADE MIN PATAN TO SEC DENT AND AMBASSADOR THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IS BEING PHYSICALLY RELOCATED INTO PARTY HEAD-QUARTERS BUILDING AND THAT PRESENT COUNCIL BUILDING WILL REVERT TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR WHICH IT WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED.

7. ALSO OF MINOR INTEREST IN SPEECHES WAS FACT THAT TWO SPEAKERS (CHEMICAL MINISTER FLORESCU AND SCIENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN URSU) MADE POINT OF CITING CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL RESEARCH (HEADED BY ELENA CEAUSESCU) AS MODEL ORGANIZATION WHICH COULD WELL BE EMULATED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. BARNES

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